

Excursion Program for ISEA 12 (for accompanying persons)

Tours are organized by Panhellas Tourism and Congress

For information and pre-booking please contact :
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Note: You can book when you are at the conference. However, since the tours are based on a minimum number of participants, it is advisable to pre-book in order to assure your participation; then, you will receive a voucher for the tour in advance while the payment can be done at the information desk at the conference venue.

Crete in Spring



Mythology

Culture

History

Activities



Crete Tradition



Monday 19/5/2008

Fodele/Arkadi/Rethymnon – Full Day excursion (09:00 – 16:30)

First stop will be the village of Fodele, a quite sleepy place nestling amongst orange groves and plane trees, just 25 km west of Iraklion, a real oasis for the visitor during the hot summer. At the village square under a plane tree, which is over one thousand years old, there is a memorial to the great painter "Domenikos Theotokopoulos", better known as El Greco, who was born in Fodele in 1541.

Afterwards, we drive on to Rethymnon, a small Mediterranean town with its Renaissance architecture, Venetian fortress and museums where we have time for sightseeing, lunch and shopping.

On the way back, we will stop at the Monastery of Arkadi, which was built in 1587.



Euro 32,50 per person including coach service and professional English speaking guide
Entrance of Fodele Museum **Euro 2,00 p.p.** excluded
Entrance of Arkadi **Euro 2,00 p.p.** excluded

Notes: Entrance fees are based on rates of 2007 and might change.

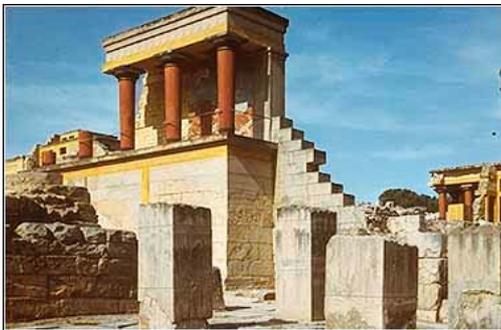
Minimum 25 pax

Tuesday Morning - 20/5/2008

Knossos/Museum – Half Day excursion – (09:00 – 14:00) –

Knossos is not simply foundations, but a three story Palace complex of rooms, halls and passages dating from 2500 BC and the centre of the Minoan civilisation (when in most parts of the world people were still living in caves). This is the labyrinth where Theseus slew the Minotaur, and where history and legend go hand in hand.

After Knossos, you may choose to visit the archaeological Museum of Heraklion, where all the best finds of Knossos and other cities are housed or to take your time for shopping



Euro 25,00 per person including coach service and professional English speaking guide
Entrance of Knossos **Euro 6,00 p.p.** excluded
Entrance of the archaeological Museum **Euro 6,00 p.p.** excluded

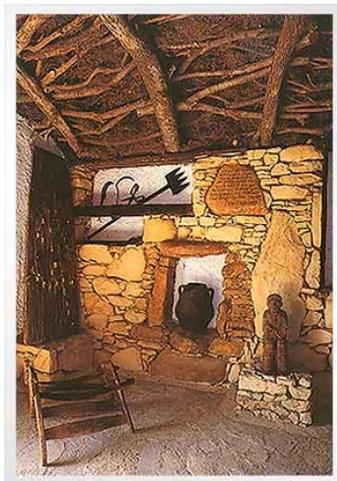
Notes: Entrance fees are based on rates of 2007 and might change.

Minimum participants: 25 pax

Tuesday Afternoon - 20/5/2008

Visit of the Lychnostatis Museum and the traditional village of Koutouloufari (16:00 – 19:00)

The small open air Museum Lychnostatis is located at the area of Hersonissos only 5 km far away from the Aldemar Hotel Group.



The Cretan Open-air Museum 'LYCHNOSTATIS ' aims to promote the understanding and awareness of the Cretan folk cultural heritage.

Its scope lies on the following themes:

- Cretan Folk Tradition and Ethnology
- Life-style in the pre-industrial Crete (19th - 20th century), traditional occupations and customs , living legends , ethnological information e.t.c.
- Cretan Nature and Environment
- Cretan vegetation , mineral wealth, environmental administrative process
- Cretan Folk Culture
- Self - taught artists who promote the folk cultural heritage with their artistic work

After the visit of the museum, we will drive to the traditional village of Koutouloufari with 600 permanent residents only and have time to explore the area.



Euro 18,50 per person including coach service, English speaking assistance, entrance fees and a guided tour at Lychnostatis

Minimum participants: 25 pax

Thursday 22/5/2008

Zaros/Phaestos/Matala – Full Day excursion (09:00 – 16:30)

This tour will bring us to the south coast of Crete. The first stop will be at the unspoiled village of Zaros, where we have time to enjoy the unique path full of trees, flowers and herbs around the lake. Afterwards we drive through the mountains to Phaestos, the second major Minoan site. At Phaestos you can see evidence of the original complex destroyed by fire and earthquake, and also the second, rebuilt complex. The tour goes on to the beach of **Matala**, overlooking the beautiful bay and an interesting assembly of Neolithic caves.

In the village Matala on the south coast, you will have the possibility to have lunch, swim and explore the caves surrounding the bay.



Euro 32,50 per person including coach service and professional English speaking guide
Entrance of Phaestos Museum **Euro 4,00 p.p.** excluded

Notes: Entrance fees are based on rates of 2007 and might change.

Minimum 25 pax

Friday - 23/5/2008

FULL DAY CRUISE TO SANTORINI FROM HERAKLION

Black sand and white houses, indigo sea and grey earth, green fields and petrified **lava!** No other island quite compares with the wild natural beauty of the volcanic island of **Santorini**.

The history of Santorini is the history of volcano. Contrasting layers of pumice-stone and santorinian soil, bear witness to the eruption of the volcano, which took place some **3500 years ago**, causing three quarters of the island to sink into the sea.



Program:

06:00 Departure from the hotel
06:30 Boarding
07:15 Departure
Breakfast on Board
11:30 Arrival at Santorini
11:30- 17:00 Explore the Island
17:30 Departure from Santorini
Dinner with Entertainment on Board
21:45 Arrival at the port of Heraklion

Departure from Heraklion: Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Euro 85,00 per person including transfer from the hotel to the port and vice versa, cruise to Santorini including breakfast and dinner with entertainment on board.

Notes:

- Above mentioned rates is based on rates of 2007 and might change.
- Excursion on Santorini not included (can be booked on the boat)

No Minimum Participants

Friday - 23/5/2008

THE UNKNOWN CRETE (09:00 – 16:39)

Walk through the pastures and the olive groves of Agios Nikolaos and meet authentic Cretans at the villages of Kroustas and Kalo Horio

You will be transferred by coach to the Village of Mardati, just a few kilometres from Agios Nikolaos, where we will start our hiking tour. This beautiful hike will take us via deep countryside and the enchanting village of Kroustas. Walking through pastures and olive groves we shall pass by some old mills, small chapels (Panagia Kera) and winnowing circles, admiring the wonderful view to Agios Nikolaos and Mirabello Bay. Continuing through a small gorge, we pass through the rocky countryside with some almond trees to end at the village of Kalo Horio.

Details:

Total distance: 12-13 km

Total estimating walking time: 3-4 hours

Grade: Easy/Moderate (This walk is suitable for anyone in good health and normal fitness. The walk takes part on reasonably flat terrains)

Height gain: 300m

Height loss: 500 m



Euro 32,50 including transfer from/to the location of the tour, 1 experienced guide (for more than 25 participants, we will have 2 assistants), first aid kit and health/accident insurance

What to take with you on the walk:

1. A bottle of Water

2. Good shoes. These don't have to be hiking boots but you won't be contributing to your enjoyment by wearing tennis shoes or sandals.

Saturday - 24/5/2008

Knossos/Museum – Full Day excursion – (11:00 – 18:00) –

Knossos is not simply foundations, but a three story Palace complex of rooms, halls and passages dating from 2500 BC and the centre of the Minoan civilisation (when in most parts of the world people were still living in caves). This is the labyrinth where Theseus slew the Minotaur, and where history and legend go hand in hand.

After Knossos, we will visit the archaeological Museum of Heraklion, where all the best finds of Knossos and other cities are housed or to take your time for shopping



Euro 27,50 per person including coach service and professional English speaking guide
Entrance of Knossos **Euro 6,00 p.p.** excluded
Entrance of the archaeological Museum **Euro 6,00 p.p.** excluded

Notes: Entrance fees are based on rates of 2007 and might change.

Minimum participants: 25 pax

Sunday 25/5/2008

5. Samaria Gorge – Full Day excursion (Approximate 06:30 – 21:30)

We will leave Hersonissos early in the morning and drive to the west part of Crete, where the famous Samaria gorge is located, stretching over 16 kilometres of breathtaking scenery.

After around 2 hours and 30 minutes, we will arrive at Omalos, where is the entrance of the Samaria gorge. The gorge begins at a point called the "wooden staircase", a steep stepped pathway, which is an amazing place to watch the sunrise if you are there early enough. The scenery at the beginning of the gorge is really green, particularly in spring, with pine forests and wild flowers.

The gorge was declared a National Park in 1962 in order to protect the wild flowers, plants and the Cretan wild goats called "kri kri" and the area was recently awarded a prize by the council of Europe as one of the most picturesque sites in Europe.

At certain parts, the sides of the gorge are just 3 or 4 metres apart and when looking up, only a slither of the blue sky is visible. Along the gorge there are first aid boxes and fire extinguishers, the walk has become so popular during the last few years that it is now more important to bear the safety aspects in mind for the walkers and the gorge.

The walk is long and tiring but, when you reach the end, where the gorge opens out to a pretty village (Agia Roumeli) with a few restaurants and tavernas, where you will have time for lunch or swim in the blue and clear sea. You've never seen such a burst of energy! Everyone just cannot wait to get into the water quick enough and have a cooling dip.

If you are fit and healthy, the trek through the gorge is an experience which you'll remember forever and is definitely worth the effort. It normally takes 6 - 7 hours. But wear really good walking shoes or boots.

Then we will take the boat to Chora Sfakion, where the bus will wait for us and bring us back to Hersonissos.



Euro 55,00 per person including coach service, professional English speaking guide, Entrance fees of the gorge and the boat trip from Agia Roumeli to Chora Sfakion

Minimum 25 pax

What to take with you on the walk:

1. A bottle of Water, which you can refill on the way
2. **Good shoes.** You need strong walking shoes, preferentially hiking boots.
3. Some small snacks. There is no food available inside the National Park.